



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Affirming and promoting the inherent worth and dignity of every person since 1954

December 2017

SUNDAYS at 10:00 am

Nursery Care in Room 6 from 9:45-12:45
Refreshments and Fellowship after the service
Adult Enrichment Hour from 11:45-12:45
Childcare until 12:45

DECEMBER 3 WALLOWING IN THE PRESENT, HOPING FOR THE FUTURE

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister; with Paul Wester, Worship Associate; Carla Miller, DMRE; and Chalice Dancers
We explore today some of the emotions of living in today, as we may be wishful for times passed or a different future.

DECEMBER 10 HOSPITALITY AND WELCOME

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister; with Mary Rooker, Worship Associate; Carla Miller, DMRE and Children's Choir
How do we approach being welcoming? And what are the boundaries that we set to make real welcoming possible?

DECEMBER 17 MUSIC SERVICE

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister; with William Snyder, Worship Associate; Carla Miller, DMRE; and the Choir
Music by our Choir and selected soloists, directed by David Chapman, Music Director.

DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING AT 10 AM

The Reverend Rachel Christensen, Minister; with Carla Miller, DMRE, and Beth Charbonneau, Worship Associate; Chalice Dancers, and the Choir
We will together produce No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant on the spot with carols and story. We are all part of the story.

DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE EVENING AT 7 PM

The Reverend Rachel Christensen, Minister; with Carla Miller, DMRE; Elizabeth Porter, Worship Associate; the PBUUC Choir; and the Chalice Dancers
Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Lessons and Carols and Candelight.

DECEMBER 31 KWANZAA CELEBRATION

Members of the Congregation; with Carla Miller, DMRE; and Mary Rooker, Worship Associate; and the Chalice Dancers
Celebrate Kwanzaa with members of the congregation, followed by annual Kwanzaa Feast luncheon.

Notes from the Minister

October 31 was the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. It made me wonder, what are the reforms that we, as Unitarian Universalists so sorely need to make? What are the changes that will save our faith, will save us, and will help us? How will we live into our values more fully?

Here are some areas where we need some reform:

≈ Race and Class – Unitarian Universalism has perpetuated a bias for whiteness and higher class in action and policy. We are working on this bias, and might be at a turning point, but this has happened before. Will we this time make a meaningful and significant shift?

≈ We villainize Christians and Christianity – and yet these are our roots. We come from many different religious roots, and yet tend to be most critical of Christianity as a faith. Some of us have been wounded by Christianity, and some of us have found our way to Christianity. And together we seek to be here, in a pluralistic worship community, where we espouse a tolerance and welcoming of each spiritual path, mine and yours. Let us work to be as inclusive of Christianity as we are of other spiritual journeys.

≈ We know how best to help – We too often think we are the ones to help and advise. Let us move instead into a posture of being with: Being with, being in relationship with; let us come from a place of believing that each person knows what they need, and asking that question: What do you need? What is the most important thing here for you. Let me be with you in that deep need, let me follow your lead, let me affirm that you are the expert on this need.

≈ A smugness about spiritual path – Let us remember our commitment to pluralism, to finding meaning, to the spiritual shift that sometimes happens for us during our lives, that it might happen for me, it might happen for you. We need more humility.

We seek to build an inclusive religious community, connected by love, spirit and service. We are a saving faith. Our Unitarian Universalist faith and teaching is needed by so many, and resonates with people who have not found our Universalist message in other places. We value You. We value each person, and each person's faith journey. People are emotionally and spiritually rescued and Saved by this message. We are valued and valuable, just the way we are, and are meant to be in relationship. None of us are perfect, and none of us are more perfect than another. We – each of us – have things to teach, things to learn and ways to grow.

May it be so.

Rev. Rachel minister@pbuuc.org
Paint Branch: An inclusive religious community connected by love, spirit and service.



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PBUUC Leadership Directory

🌀 Officers and Board of Trustees 2017-2018 🌀

email: BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org

Chair	Kate Brett
Vice-Chair	Carmelita Carter-Sykes
Vice-Chair	Eric Most
Trustee	Sonny Katz
Trustee	Kay McGraw
Trustee	Tess Morrison
Trustee	Jessica Sharp
Trustee	Marguerite Summers
Trustee	Kathi Yu
Treasurer	Louise Waugh
Assistant Treasurer	David Nation
Secretary	Carol Boston
Assistant Secretary	Jennifer Wright

🌀 Worship Associates 🌀

* Beth Charbonneau (2015-18)	Paul Wester (2016-19)
* Will Snyder (2015-18)	Elizabeth Porter (2017-20)
*Team Leaders	Jeri Holloway (2017-20)
Mary Rooker (2016-19)	Samantha Evans (Young Adult)

🌀 Pastoral Care Associates 🌀

Jeri Holloway
Lynn Johnson
Mike McMenamin
Will Snyder

🌀 We Care Coordinators 🌀

VACANT

🌀 Chartered Committees and Teams 🌀

Arts Council	Pat Tompkins (Music)
Adult RE	Emily Conover (Visual Arts)
Auction	Louise Waugh
Budget Leadership Team	Tess Morrison (Team Leader)
Buildings & Grounds (co-chairs)	Celinda Marsh
By-Laws Review	Lowell Owens & Peter Wathen-Dunn
Capital Campaign	Muriel Morisey
Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) (co-chairs)	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Denominational Affairs	Carol Carter Walker
Electronic Communications	Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson
Finance	Don Gerson, Chair
Green Team (co-chairs)	Bettie Young, cluster rep.
Leasing (contact)	contact church office
Legacy Fund	Patty Daukantas
Membership	Kathy Bartolomeo
Ministry	& Pat Behenna
Nominating	Church Office
Personnel	Ken Montville
Religious Exploration	Pat Behenna
Social Action (SAC)	James Alexander, Janet Overton and Elizabeth Porter
Stewardship	John Bartoli
	VACANT
	REcmte@pbuuc.org
	Don Henderson
	Chris Evans

🌀 Groups and Activities 🌀

Bookstore	Raman Pathik
Bridge Group	Penny O'Brien
Chalice Dancers	Sherry Mitchell
Children's Choir	Allison Hughes & Jeanne Judd
Choir	David Chapman
Coffee Coordinator	VACANT
Community Café	Alice Tyler
Food for Thought	Mary Rooker
Handcraft Circle	Ebeth Porter
Facebook Group	Ken Montville
Men's Group	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Mental Health Support Group	Alice Tyler
Quest Discussion Group	Lowell Owens
Paint Branch Community Learning Center	Carmelita Carter-Sykes
Shamanic Journeying	Mary Rooker
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner
TWedHUULK	Elaine Shell
Ushers	Esther Nichols
Warm Nights	Tess Morrison & Louise Waugh
Webmaster	Mark Shute
Welcome Table Greeters	Pat Behenna
Widowed Persons Support Group	Jeri Holloway
Women's Group	Louise Waugh

🌀 Minister 🌀

The Rev. Rachel Rudd Christensen

🌀 Minister Emeritus 🌀

The Rev. Richard Kelley

🌀 Staff 🌀

Please contact the Church Office at 301-937-3666 for staff listed

Music Director & Pianist	David Chapman
Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration	Carla Miller
Director, Chalice Dancers	Sharon Werth
Church Administrator	Charles Bury
Administrative Assistant	Rico Jones
Bookkeeper	Roy Friday, CPA
Sunday Service/Building Managers:	Joel Yesupriya
	Howard Townsell
Child Care Providers:	Jazmin Balbuena
	Joy Washington
	Briana Workcuff

🌀 Office Volunteers 🌀

Elizabeth Scheiman (Tuesday)
Will Snyder (Wednesday)
Alice Tyler (Thursday)
Janet Overton (Friday)

Board of Trustees

I want to start out by saying that I am very appreciative of all the people who have participated in the life of this church. Every person who passes through doors makes a difference. This month, I want to especially call out everyone who participated in the auction, from planning to execution to participating in bidding to cleaning up and tallying the proceeds. The event was a wonderful success and goes a long way in providing funds to keep the church going.

As a new board member as well as Chair, I have the unique opportunity to introduce minor changes in board process, simply because I am looking at everything with fresh eyes. While any change is going to be minor, the hope is that questions of how to manage the church can be delegated to either staff members or other standing committee so that the Board can focus at least some of its time on reviewing standing church policies, increase Board transparency, and plan for the future. It's not easy to get out of the weeds and look at the bigger picture but it is the goal.

For the last two months, your Board of Trustees have been working on creating a covenant with each other. As with everything that we have undertaken this year, we very seriously and consciously thought through the process, brainstormed together, discussed the ramifications of every line, and processed the words we heard from each member. Creating this covenant was important for us to do and was hard work. It allowed us to adjust to working slowly and deliberately, making sure every person has a chance to speak and be heard. In the end, every board member could say that they supported the new covenant and will strive to actively live by it for the rest of this year as we work together. The bottom line, both figuratively and literally, is that we "Each take responsibility to make this the best darn Board of Trustees ever."

Kate Brett, Board Chair

The next regular BOT Meeting is December 19, 2017.

All read-aheads are due on December 12, 2017.

The BOT ExCom meeting is December 5, 2017.

The Startup Workshop for the new ministry will be Sunday, January 21, 2018—immediately following the service (see accompanying article)

Save the Date:

Ministerial Start-Up January 21

Come one, come all! Come help with our

Ministerial Start-Up workshop

Sunday, January 21, 11:30 am–4pm in the Meeting House
I know, I know. We have already started!! Rev. Rachel has been in the house since August – why do we need a Start-up in January?

Now that we have gotten over our First Date jitters, and have begun to settle into this new way of being Paint Branch, this is a great time to get to know each other on a different level and to see what the shape of Paint Branch's next chapter will really be. We will talk about the wonderful things that this congregation has done, and also about things that maybe we wish had gone differently. We will talk about how we got to where we are today, and where we want to be going next. And we'll learn about each other in new and surprising ways.

After the Sunday service, we will gather with Rev. Megan Foley, our primary contact with the Central East Region, who will facilitate this conversation. Everyone is welcome! It will be wonderful to have many people stay and participate, those new to the congregation, and those who have been here almost forever. We want everyone. Those who are young adults, parents of young children, and those whose children may already be old and grey. We will provide lunch and childcare and comfortable seating.

Put it on your calendar! We want YOU to be there!

Stewardship at PBUUC

Your Stewardship Committee is already putting energy into our 2018 annual campaign. The annual campaign is important to PBUUC because the commitment that each member and friend makes each year generates 75% of the congregation's annual operating budget. Yes, that's not a typo – 75%. In 2018, you will choose how you want to make your pledge to include: 1) meet one-on-one with a Visiting Steward; 2) attend one of four fun events such as the very popular stewardship breakfast; or 3) visit the stewardship table in the lobby after any Sunday in March. Look for more information in the coming months, but save the date now for our Fellowship Dinner on Saturday, February 17th at 6 PM. This family-friendly potluck dinner will include entertainment from some very talented members and childcare will be provided. We hope to see you all there!

Multigenerational Religious Exploration

HOLIDAY DECORATING PARTY CAROL SINGING, FOOD, CRAFTS AND FUN for *the Whole Congregational Family and Friends*



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST
5:30 pm—9 pm

Can you...
Bring a dish? A craft? Activity? Lend a hand?
Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/PBUUC-holiday-celebrate> Contact **Tina Van Pelt**,
tinavanpelt@gmail.com, or Carla Miller,
dmre@pbuuc.org, for more information **Please RSVP for
childcare for infants and toddlers** on the sign-up above.
We need to staff appropriately to care for our little ones.

Christmas Eve Morning CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This year's pageant performance will take place on Sunday, December 24th at our regular morning time of 10 am. As has been the case in the recent past, this will be a no-rehearsal pageant. Anyone who wishes to join in the action- and the tableau- may don one of our costumes and join in!

We would also love to have a couple of young people as narrators. Those roles require one rehearsal. Please contact Carla Miller, dmre@pbuuc.org if you'd like to participate in this way!

RE Calendar

Friday, December 1: Holiday Party 5:30 pm—9 pm
Sunday, December 3: RE Classes; Last day of collection for College Park Food Bank
Sunday, December 10: RE Classes & Harry Potter Butter-Beer Stand
Friday, December 15: Faith, Food and Fun! 6:30 pm—9 pm
Sunday, December 17: RE Classes
Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve 10 am Service with Pageant
Sunday, December 31: Kwanzaa Service
Friday, January 5: 4F's
Friday, January 19: Congregational Birthday Party!

Friday, Faith, Food and Fun gathers again on December 1, as part of our holiday decorating party from 5:30-9 pm, with a potluck dinner; and on December 15 from 6:30 pm-9 pm, with pizza provided (please bring a dessert, side, or salad). Sign up to bring something on sign up genius <http://bit.ly/4FsSignUp>

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CHILDREN'S CLASSES

All classes are celebrating winter holidays – though in differing ways.

Spirit Play for Prekindergarten and Kindergarten:



The PreK and Kindergarten Spirit Play will enjoy a holiday story each week in December; one Sunday Hannukah, one focused on Christmas, and finally Kwanzaa!

Each Sunday will include a craft choice related to the holiday celebration.

Grades 1, 2 & 3 PokUmon & A World of Wonder:



In keeping with their ecology theme, the younger elementary grades will explore the natural happenings of this time of year; such as decomposition, and the solstice- which is deeply connected to our winter holiday traditions. Watching the transition to winter helps us to better understand the spiritual meaning of holidays that bring the greens indoors, and celebrate the renewal of light and life.

Grades 4-6 Harry & UU: A Social Justice Curriculum , Part 2



The Harry Potter class is raising funds for the non-profit, "Pay It Forward" this month as an alternative gift to the world. Pay It Forward provides livestock, chickens, and bees to farmers in Haiti, along with the training needed to raise and market these animals. You will see them selling Harry Potter –themed treats and butter-beer in the lobby following some December services. We will also spend one class session learning about Jesus' birth story, as compared to both the story of the Buddha's birth, and Harry Potter's ... some interesting similarities, and differences.



FEBRUARY- OWL for Grades 4/5 is almost here! Six Sunday sessions, February 4th-March 11th, with lunch at 11:30 am and class from noon-1:15 pm. Parent conversations

will be held during class time to support parents as their children's primary religious and sexuality educators.

Elementary OWL is grounded in the themes of Respect, Relationship, and Responsibility. We'll explore puberty, peers, pre-dating and dating, online and electronic use; masturbation, sexual orientations, and gender identities- all in age appropriate ways. You won't find these important discussions in most schools!

Please tell friends, especially parents of boys. We would like a better gender-balance. Parent orientations will be held on January 14th and 21st following service. All parents are required to attend one of these sessions.

JANUARY 19 4F's will be a very special and fun celebration for the whole congregation! We will all come together for our FIRST ANNUAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

Multigenerational Religious Exploration ANNOUNCEMENTS

Contribute to a Great Cause for Christmas

Chosen by Our Grades 4-6 Class

Our Harry Potter class, Grades 4-6, is fundraising for the non-profit, "Pay it Forward" from the Alternative Gifts International catalog. Through the "Pay it Forward with Goats" project, **Community Coalition for Haiti (CCH)** gives families the opportunity for food and income. Families that are trained to care for and breed goats are able to triple their income in just one year. Each family must "give back" to the community: either by giving a goat to another family or selling a goat to help fund local schools.

\$99 A gift of a Pregnant Goat

\$28 Training a family to raise goats

Thank you for your donations to the

FOOD COLLECTION for the College Park Food Bank

We collected two large boxes of food to donate to the Food Bank! Following our Trunk or Treat, we had also donated a large box of food and toiletries to the Day Center in Silver Spring, and collected \$200 dollars for UNICEF! PBUUC RE is making a difference in the lives of others beyond ourselves!

Our Famous UU for December: Charles Dickens



Charles Dickens (February 7, 1812-June 9, 1870), a great English novelist of the 19th century, was a Unitarian. He is well-known as a voice for social justice, exposing the heartless oppression of the poor in his novels and stories. His story, *A Christmas Carol*, has become a classic of the Christmas season, with

its story of the transformation of the human soul.

Although Dickens was baptized and reared in the Church of England and was a nominal Anglican for most of his life, he turned to Unitarianism in the 1840s and associated with Unitarians until the end of his life. In 1842 Dickens traveled to America. He hoped to find in the United States progressive religious bodies, free from state control. Although disappointed with most American churches, he returned home full of enthusiasm for New England Unitarians in general, and Reverend William Ellery Channing in particular.

In *The Life of Our Lord*, Dickens summarized his faith as "to do good always." He believed humanity, created in the image of the divine, retained a seed of good. He preached the gospel of the second chance. The world would be a better place if, with a change of heart, people were to treat others with kindness and generosity.

(Bio from UU Dictionary of Biography uudb.org)



The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

"Worker Centers & Worker Organizing in the Current Political Climate"

UUJEC Sponsored Webinar:

December 6th @ 8pm (eastern time)

We are pleased to be joined by **Magaly Licolli** – Executive Director, Northwest Arkansas Worker Justice Center and **Ahmed Ali** – Executive Director, Greater Minnesota Worker Center for a discussion on worker organizing and economic justice. Learn how faith communities can work in solidarity with workers centers to advance our common struggle for dignity and equality.

Time: Wednesday December 6 @ 8 pm Eastern

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://zoom.us/j/387214485>

You should be at a laptop, computer or mobile device with a camera and internet access to participate. Plan to sign in early to make sure you have enough time to download the Zoom platform, if necessary.

You may also join by phone, if you prefer.

Dial: 1 669 900 6833 or +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 387 214 485

Northwest Arkansas Worker Justice Center: Magaly Licolli was born in Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico. She's been living in Arkansas for 13 years, and throughout those years working closely with the immigrant community, she learned the struggles of the immigrant community in this area. She's currently working to bring the GFPP (Good Food Purchasing Program) campaign to Arkansas by collaborating with local farmers, environmentalist and other allies to keep supporting workers efforts in quest of dignity and respect in poultry plants.

Greater Minnesota Worker Center: Ahmed Ali has been the Executive Director of Greater Minnesota Worker Center since January, 2017. He has served as the Lead Staff organizer from December, 2014 to December, 2016 and as a founding board member and the board vice chair for the two years before 2013-2014. He has a decade of experience in nonprofit management, planning, community and labor organizing. Ahmed is pursuing Master of Business Administration at St Cloud State University and has studied Mass Communications (BS), Political Science (BA) and International Relations (BA) at the same university.

The numbers are coming in, income and some expenses. It appears that our final income, with a few more invoices still to be paid and some expenses to be charged will be a bit more than \$33,000.

THAT IS TERRIFIC!

I hope that I did not miss anyone because you are all due a **Huge Thanks to EVERYONE** who stepped up to help make this auction happen, successfully! Being her first year and a late start, Tess really appreciated all those Team Leaders who stepped in and took over their areas and made everything run as smoothly as can be expected! Anita Williams on decorations who suggested that the congregation help with the colorations - and they were terrific!! Carol Carter Walker, Sonny Katz and Jessica Sharp on announcements (both written and live.) Kathi Yu led the Cooking/Kitchen Clean-up Team: James Alexander, Kathy Bartolomeo, Don Gerson, Linda Hinton, Jeri Holloway, Kathy Kearns, Rene McDonald, Nancy Monardes, Don Monroe, Tricia Most, Marilyn Pearl, Ebeth Porter, Marguerite Summers, and Elaine Shell) who supplied the throng with fun foods under three themes. Shantida supervised the cashiers for opening and closing (Jim Flaherty, Erin Gebhart, and Lynn Johnson). The set-up team consisted of Steve Bernheisel, Jeri Holloway, Mike McMenamin, Marguerite Summers and Bettie Young. A special Thanks to Chuck Bury for arranging the building managers to start set up on Friday night and to our building managers Joel Yesupriya and Howard Townsell for their hours of work Friday setting up the rooms and helping with clean up at the end. Child care was provided by: Jeff Porter and Caleb Porter. Cash-N'Carry was covered by Becky Nation and Bettie Young. Handicrafts were supplied by Jeri Holloway, Muriel Morisey and Tina van Pelt. Pick up crew: Liz Citrin, Don Gerson and Elaine Shell. Entertainment: David Chapman, Jesse Crowley, Alexandra Dille, Jim Flaherty, Renee Katz, Don Mitchell, Muriel Morrisey, Andy Myrup, Ebeth Porter, Van Summers, Elizabeth Yanowitch; Sharon Werth and the Chalice Dancers, Data Entry: Keith Miller and Van Summers. Bidsheets were done by Alice Tyler and Anita Williams. Our Auctioneers/MCs: Sonny Katz and John Bartoli who were able to step in for the ailing Jessica Sharp. Plus all those who donated items and getaways/services/dinners/entertainment/events/miscellaneous/food for the auction to say nothing of those who bid on said donations! The Executive Committee this year was Marguerite and Van summers, Carol Carter Walker and Tess Morrison.

Thanks for stepping up Big Time! We could not have done it without each and every one of YOU. Many Thanks.

PBUUC 2017 Auction Team

AUCTION 2017

Celebrate the 60's!



News and notes about Paint Branch

What's up with the new parking lot?

The County has to do some additional design work in our parking lot, because they are now going to route the runoff from a section of Powder Mill Road through the wet-weather ponds. Additional survey work is in process to support the additional design work. At this point we think the construction will happen Summer 2018.

How is it going with the new Sound System and Internet Improvements?

The new sound system and hearing assist loop is basically finished. We are still working to ensure that we can use some of our previous equipment and resolving a few questions. We are training and supporting our Building Managers so that we have a consistently good quality experience during worship. In addition, Van Summers has developed a guide and training to help those who need to know, so they can start up the system and get it working. We have just begun work improving the WiFi in both the Meeting House and the RE Building, so that better internet connectivity is available in those two buildings.

On-Line Presence? What's that about?

We have a team of folks looking at how to increase our visibility so people can find us when they might be looking. And you can help! We have two types of Facebook presence: one is our [Facebook Page](#), which is public, and the other is our [Facebook Group](#), which is private. If you haven't gone to both, here's how to do it: Go to our [website](#). At the top is a listing of options. Hover over Community and click on the top option, [PBUUC Facebook](#). On the Mobile App website go to Menu, then Community, then to [PBUUC Facebook](#). There it gives links the two different options. Please "Like" the [Facebook Page](#)! You will then receive notifications about events happening here at Paint Branch. If you Like or Share the [events](#), or indicate that you plan to attend, it will increase our visibility on Facebook, and help people to find us. And while you are at it, please request to "Join" the [PBUUC Facebook Group](#), so we can all stay in touch.



Social Action Committee

Spread the Joy with Holiday Gifts for Beacon House

These are two of the children of Beacon House who received holiday gifts from area UU churches in 2016. Many, many of you provided gifts last year. The members of the Social Action Committee and the children are very grateful. SAC is asking that you give again from your hearts this year. PBUUC and other area UU churches, through the Beacon House UU Liaison Team, have long partnered with Beacon House to give gifts during the holidays to children who otherwise might not receive any.



After online discussions with the Team churches, Team members and Beacon House staff have determined the number of children who still need gifts, and their grade levels, as noted in the table below. (Copies of Beacon House's 2017 Christmas Wish List will be available in the lobby after service on Sundays beginning December 3.) Seven other UU churches will also be working from this list. If you would like to donate a specific gift from the list, please contact Janet Overton at janmo4868@gmail.com so that she can notify the Liaison Team that that gift wish has been answered.

Beacon House Kids Who Still Need Gifts

Grades	K-2	3-5	6-7	8-10	11-12
Ages	5-7	8-10	11-12	13-15	16-18
Boys	10	15	8	6	4
Girls	6	16	9	4	6
Totals	16	31	17	10	10

The gifts will be delivered to Beacon House on Sunday, December 17, but you can drop off gifts at PBUUC designated for Beacon House Children any day until the 17th. Note: the children will not be on hand at Beacon House at the time of drop off. Drop off has traditionally been a time for

Team liaisons and Beacon House staff to celebrate the holiday together but also assess the work of the past year and think of ways to better serve these children in the coming year, and, of course, assemble all the gifts. Janet will be dropping the gifts off at Beacon House. Let her know if you'd like to join her or feel free to come and meet the Liaison Team at Beacon House, December 17 at 3 pm. PBUUC has always been very generous in the past. This holiday season, again, may it be so.

Next SAC Meeting: Saturday, December 16 at 10 am in Room 4 of the Religious Exploration Building. Contact SAC@pbuuc.org

SAC Special Collection December 2017

The SAC Special Collection for December is for our traditional Warm Nights and Community Café Programs. During the two Christmas Eve Services the entire proceeds of the collections will be dedicated to our Warm Nights Program, this includes our 'Community Café' that works with other churches to provide hot lunches for persons in need. The other program is the Prince Georges County Hyperthermia Program, Warm Nights Homeless Emergency Shelter overseen by the Community Crisis Services Inc. (CCSI). Prince George's churches including ours provide homeless men, women, and children a place to spend one week during the winter months (mid-November to April) giving them a place to sleep, a hot home-made dinner and breakfast, and a bag lunch to start their day. Both programs operate year round. Please make checks payable to PBUUC with "Warm Nights" in the memo line. Thank you.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS AT PAINT BRANCH

We will have a Family Friendly, all-church, all-ages Holiday Party on **Friday, December 1**, during which we will decorate a tree for the Meeting House. Come add good food and good cheer to our season's spirit!

We will have a Choral Music service on **Sunday, December 17**.

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, and so we plan to have our **Sunday, 10 am** worship to be a No-Rehearsal Christmas Pageant, in which ALL may participate, along with music and dance of the season. **In the evening**, we plan a single Christmas Eve service with carols and candlelight, music and dance. Please join us.

And on **Sunday, December 31**, New Year's Eve, we will have a KWANZAA celebration for our worship service. Please come.

Order Poinsettias for the Holiday Season Sunday, December 3

You can pre-order poinsettias as gifts, for your home, and to decorate the Meeting House this year. See a poinsettia volunteer in the Lobby after Service. Payment is due no later than December 3.

The poinsettias come in four colors—red, white, pink, and variegated—and six pot sizes, ranging from 4- to 10-inches. They are provided by Behnke Nurseries, a local business.

The plants can be picked up on Sunday, December 17 and Sunday, December 24. The Meeting House will be decorated from December 17 through December 31.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)



Unitarian Universalist Association Makes Call for Personal Testimony

Submitted by Carol Carter Walker, Co-Chair, Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team

The Board of Trustees of the UUA appointed a Commission on Institutional Change last Spring. The Commission is charged with long-term cultural and institutional change that redeems the essential promise and ideals of Unitarian Universalism. Its focus is an analysis of structural racism and white supremacy within the UUA.

You can read the [complete summary \(PDF\)](#) of the Commission, including the full charge and member bios. To contact the Commission, email commission@uua.org. Longer term Paint Branchers will notice that one of the Commission members is Rev. Natalie Fenimore, our former Director of Religious Education.

The Commission wants to hear from us—all of us because oppression hurts everyone including those who appear to be its beneficiaries. Here are the personal testimony guidelines.

The Commission on Institutional Change requests personal accounts and stories about how racism has affected individuals and groups within Unitarian Universalism at the personal, institutional, or systemic levels. It is seeking to document incidents that occurred between individual Unitarian Universalists, within a congregational or Associational setting, or as a result of white-centeredness embedded within the greater Unitarian Universalist culture. Within this context, the Commission asks you to respond to the following questions with specific examples:

- ♦ In what ways have you or your group or community been hurt by current racist and culturally biased attitudes and practices within Unitarian Universalism?
- ♦ In what ways have we, as a faith community, been living outside of our values and commitments?

Please note that no information provided in these testimonials will be shared with attribution without the prior consent of the author. The Commission is mindful that certain details in submissions can be revealing and commits to treating all submissions with full trust and confidence.

How to Submit Your Testimony

Submissions—written, audio, or video format—in response to this set of questions will be accepted through **January 31, 2018**.

Audio Submissions: MP3 format is best.

Video Submissions: MP4 format is best.

Written Submissions: Please use this convenient form:

Word: <http://bit.ly/UUAword> or **PDF:** <http://bit.ly/UUAPDF> which contains the questions listed above.

To submit your testimony, save the file to your computer, and then upload it via this secure link: **Submit Your Story:** <http://bit.ly/UUAsubmit>

Please direct any questions about this process to testimony@uua.org

DARTT to Meet Tuesday, December 12, 2017

DARTT's next meeting will be Tuesday, December 12, from 7 to 9 pm in Room 4, Religious Education Building. A draft agenda will be available by Tuesday, December 5.

All are welcome—newcomers, friends, and members, alike.

DARTT Recommends:

Sharing Our Stories: Free Workshop on the Transformative Value of Caucusing

Saturday, December 2, 9 am to 12:30 pm at River Road UU Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD.

The Workshop will focus on learning and reflection based on the themes of the book *Unitarian Universalists of Color: Stories of Struggle, Courage, Love and Faith*, and will be facilitated by two of the book contributors Yuri Yamamoto and Takiyah Nur Amin. The session will include time dedicated to caucusing as people of color and white-identified Unitarian Universalists. Reading the book beforehand is encouraged, but not required.

Registration is now open through Eventbrite -- <http://bit.ly/UUcaucusing>

Kwanzaa: An All Ages Celebration, Assessment and Feast

Our annual Kwanzaa service on Sunday, December 31st is sponsored by DARTT, our Diversity Anti-Racism Transformation Team, will feature traditional music, rituals, the Chalice Dancers, drumming, stories, and creation of art. In the Kwanzaa tradition of assessment as part of this end of year celebration, PBUUC members and friends will examine the question from an African American parent: published in the NY, Times recently: "Can My Children be Friends With White People?" The service will be followed immediately by our annual Kwanzaa Feast.



WHEEL OF LIFE

Paul R. Young, age 77, died Sunday evening, September 29, at Riderwood. He was a long-time member of Paint Branch, and part of the Men's group. He had been active at the UU's of Riderwood. He was an accomplished photographer, committed to Buildings and Grounds, and to this place. Information on a Memorial Service will be provided when it becomes available. A memorial service for Paul will be held at PBUUC on Sunday, December 3 at 2 pm.



Holiday Cards from CLF

The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) is sending 825 holiday cards to CLF members who are incarcerated. Can you help? Find a simple, flat, non-glitter card. Using a pen only, write a seasonal message. Sign your first name to the card, and place the card in a stamped, un-addressed (including no return address) white envelope. Invite your Social Action or Religious Education Committees to join you. Place all the cards with sealed envelopes into a larger envelope and mail your package to the CLF. Cards must be received no later than December 7 and can be mailed to: CLF UU, Holiday Project, 24 Farnsworth Street, Boston, MA, 02210-1409. CLF staff and volunteers will address all envelopes, hoping to bring a bit of cheer to incarcerated members, many of whom are lonely and without support. Learn more on the CLF's Worthy Now Prison Ministry Network website. worthynow.org/3ways-to-give/

In and Around Paint Branch

All are invited to dance with the Chalice Dancers on Christmas Eve. The candle dance is the one that we did last year. It is VERY easy. We welcome you to join us in this celebration and be part of the service. The dance at the morning service (10 am) will be done with battery candles, so all ages are welcome. The evening service (7 pm) will be danced with real candles, so ages 2nd Grade and older are welcome.

There will be two additional rehearsals other than our regular Saturday morning rehearsals 9:30 am – 10:30 am (December 9th, 16th and 23rd) – Friday, December 15 at the 4-F's at 7 pm, and Sunday December 17 at Enrichment Hour. There will be run-throughs before each service as well, so you would need to arrive 45 minutes before the service. I believe that you can learn it in one rehearsal, and two would be a guarantee.

Please contact Sharon Werth – sbodul@comcast.net – or phone her – 301-343-9869 – to confirm your participation, or if you have any questions. *In the dancing-Sharon*



Holiday Craft Sale!

Holiday Craft Sale! Immediately following the service, Sunday, December 17. Hand-made items created by your fellow congregants with love. 20% of proceeds to benefit PBUUC. Anyone wishing to join the crafters contact Penney Hughes or Tina Van Pelt at craftsale@pbuuc.org

The PBUUC Women's Group holiday cookie exchange will take place on December 17 after the service in the Kelley Room. Bring some of your favorite home-baked treats to trade for an assortment, don't forget a container to take them home in! Questions? Contact Louise Waugh at LouiseMWaugh@hotmail.com or 301-474-5229.

TWedHUULK December 20 at

TWedHUULK lunch for the Christmas month is Wednesday, December 20. We hope to have some new PBUUCers enjoy a holiday meal with us. Everyone is welcome. We're going to try the Sheraton restaurant at 4096 Powder Mill in the AMC Theaters area. It's a pleasant environment and American menu -- and it's just down the street from PB. Contact Elaine Shell at 301-776-4271 or TWedHUULK@pbuuc.org

Note to Our Readers:

The Church Administrator is responsible for the production of the newsletter.

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR BRANCHES: All submissions for inclusion in Branches should be submitted by email to: branches@pbuuc.org.

The Leadership Directory, (on page 2 of this issue), will contain names only. For more contact information, please consult your Membership Directory or call the Church Office at 301-937-3666. All submitted articles will contain phone numbers and/or email addresses for contact if listed. You may choose to list your email address only as a point of contact, and if requested, a pbuuc.org email specific to individual PBUUC committees, groups, or teams can be created.

Editorial Guidelines

- The deadline for submission of articles and other content to Branches is on the **20th day of every month**, except during the holidays.
- Articles should be submitted in their final form and content should be **200—600** words. Please submit the name of the author and any other contact information as necessary. **Reminder: Articles significantly over the word limit may be re-turned to the author for re-editing.**
- The deadline for submission of announcements and other content to appear in the Sunday Order of Service Bulletin is **every Wednesday at 12 noon**. Announcements received by the deadline will be included in the ContinUUm weekly email. **Short announcements to be read by the Worship Associate during the Sunday Service are also due then.**
- **Sunday Bulletin announcements** should be submitted in their final form to bulletin@pbuuc.org. Content should be **120** words or less. Please try to keep announcements one paragraph with a clear headline or topic sentence. Please include day, date, location, time, and contact information. Announcements should be PBUUC related; non-PBUUC events must have an explicitly stated UU connection. Up to one paragraph more may be added for use in the ContinUUm weekly email.

All deadlines are now on the web calendar. Go to www.pbuuc.org. Scroll down to “This Week” and click on

“More Upcoming Events.” Click on the Calendar grid to the left to advance to the next month.

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